Marine Protected Areas in Washington State

Status Report

- Craig Burley
- Fish Management Division Manager
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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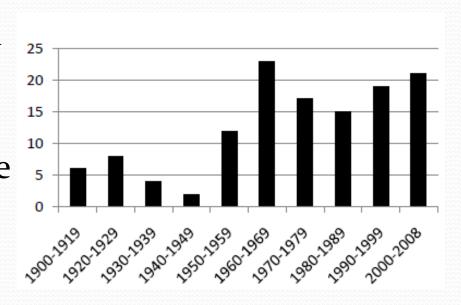


127 MPAs in Washington

- Managed by 11 federal, state or local agencies
- Cover approximately 644,000 acres and 1,100 miles of shoreline.
- Median size is 23 acres (range <1 to 300,000 acres).
- Approximately 26% of the marine waters and 27% of the shoreline within the boundaries of one or more MPAs.

Long history of MPAs in Washington state

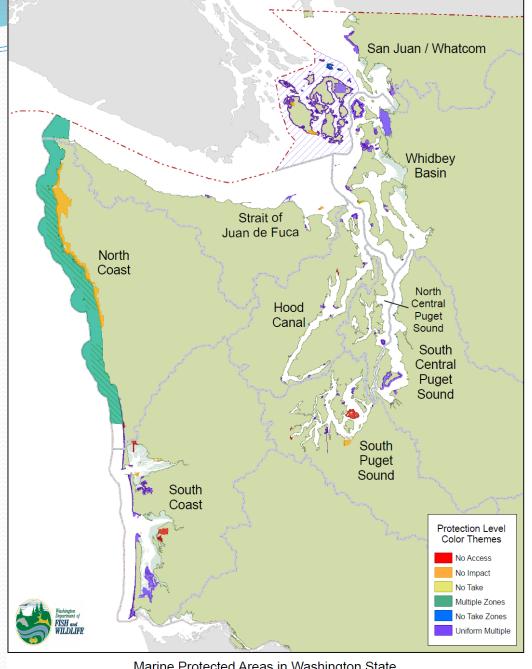
- Among the first MPAs in the country
- Quillayute Needles and Copalis National Wildlife Refuges established by Theodore Roosevelt in 1907



State and federal agencies are responsible for the large majority of MPAs in Washington

Most MPAs have a management plan in place. Some staffing is associated with most sites.

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	NUMBER OF MPAs (% of total)		SIZE (acres) (% of total)		SHORELINE (thousands of feet) (% of total)	
Local	10	(8%)	193	(0%)	23	(0%)
State	105	(83%)	331,514	(51%)	3,774	(56%)
Federal	12	(9%)	312,396	(49%)	2,931	(44%)



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Washington's MPAs

- Created on an individual, ad-hoc basis
- MPA's for a variety of uses
 - Fishery management, resource rebuilding, research, habitat protection, non-consumptive use
- Terminology is not standardized
 - Aquatic reserves, marine preserves, conservation areas, underwater parks
- State Legislature established workgroup (2009)to inventory MPAs and develop recommendations to improve use.

Recommendations for improving the use of MPAs as a management tool

(top 5 of 17 recommendations)

- Promote coordination between tribes, state, federal and local jurisdictions;
- Provide adequate funding for MPA designation, management and monitoring;
- Promote consistent use of MPA-related terms;
- Conduct a marine conservation needs assessment and gap analysis; and
- Identify and monitor reference sites to evaluate MPA effectiveness.
- Marine Protected Areas in Washington: Recommendations of the Marine Protected Areas Work Group to the Washington State Legislature, 2009 (wdfw.wa.gov/mpa/puget_sound/documents).

LESSONS LEARNED

- "MPA" is a loaded term, evoking strong positive and negative responses.
- Need to better define and communicate goals of MPAs to public.
- Strong need to move to a network of MPAs rather than a collection of MPA sites.

Questions